



RISE OF SINN FEIN AND 1918 ELECTION

The Easter rising turned many people firmly against the British. It was clear that many now favoured independence and no longer just wanted home rule.

Many began to support Sinn Fein a Republican Party that wanted full independence, they had got lots of support when the rising was wrongly dubbed 'The Sinn Fein rising' even though it had little to do with the party!

Sinn Fein used this support to its advantage. It won a huge landslide victory in the 1918 election winning 73 out of the 105 seats!

- They immediately declared Irish independence
- They formed the DAIL EIREANN - an Irish Parliament.
- They didn't send their MPs to Westminster
- They formed the IRA (IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY) to fight to maintain this independence. It was led by MICHAEL COLLINS

IRISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE / ANGLO IRISH WAR

The British government were not prepared to offer full independence to Ireland, only home rule. As a result the IRA stepped up the pressure, attacking police stations in Ireland, killing soldiers and stealing weapons. They wanted to make Ireland ungovernable

In response the British sent in the BLACK AND TANS- a tough group of ex soldiers who were determined to restore order.

Both sides took part in bloody actions and massacres in what became known as the Irish war of independence

On BLOODY SUNDAY 12 members of the Cairo gang, a group of British agents were killed in coordinated IRA attacks.

In response a British force smashed into Croke park Gaelic stadium. They opened fire on the players and the crowd. 2 players and 11 spectators were killed



PARTITION

Eventually, both sides recognised the bloodshed was clearly achieving little. The IRA knew that it was running low on finance and weapons

The British knew it could contain but not defeat the IRA.

The British Prime minister Lloyd George, held negotiations which included Michael Collins at Downing Street. The compromise was that:

- 1) Ireland could have its own Parliament with powers over most, but not all, things
- 2) The British King would still be head of state.
- 3) Ireland would be partitioned. 6 counties in Ulster would remain British and be called Northern Ireland. It would have its own Parliament in Stormont in Belfast.

Unionists did not take Donegal, Cavan or Monaghan as these were mostly Catholic and they wanted a strong Protestant majority.

The southern 26 counties were to be known as the IRISH FREE STATE or EIRE.

4) Partition was only supposed to be temporary until more negotiations took place. It lasted.



Ireland was partitioned (divided) into TWO countries, Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State (later the Republic of Ireland) in 1920.

This followed many years of political argument and violence

Since 1801, the island of Ireland had been part of the UNITED KINGDOM OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND. It was ruled from the British Parliament in LONDON



For PROTESTANTS in Ireland, this Union was a success.

They became known as UNIONISTS as they supported the Union with Britain.



UNIONIST

- Most protestants were concentrated in the northern province of ULSTER.

- They had strong industrial connections with Britain and were much wealthier

- They were part of the huge worldwide British Empire

- They were safe as part of the Protestant UK



NATIONALIST

- Most Catholics were concentrated in the southern provinces of Ireland.

- They were mostly farmers and were largely poor

- They had largely suffered under Union with a devastating potato famine killing over 1 million people and another 1 million emigrating.

- They were a Catholic country in a mostly Protestant UK. They wanted more say over their own affairs.



1) Background

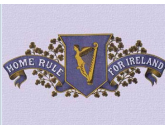
5) IRISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1919-21



Why was Ireland partitioned?

4) GROWTH OF ARMED NATIONALISM

2) HOME RULE



In the late 19th century nationalists in Ireland began to campaign for HOME RULE-

WHAT IS HOME RULE? This was the demand for an IRISH PARLIAMENT IN IRELAND TO DEAL WITH IRISH AFFAIRS.

It was NOT independence for Ireland but rather semi independence. The British King/Queen would still be head of state. The British Parliament would still have control of things like going to war and foreign affairs.



Home rule for Ireland had failed twice in the British Parliament in 1886 and 1893.

By the 1900s however it was clear that it was going to pass. The powers of the British House of Lords (which had stopped it before) were reduced meaning they could now only delay Home Rule.

In 1912 Irish Home Rule was passed BUT it would be delayed for TWO years until 1914



3) UNIONIST OPPOSITION

UNIONIST

The delay to Home Rule allowed those who opposed it the opportunity to stop it!

UNIONISTS, particularly Protestants in the north of Ireland in ULSTER, were DETERMINED to either stop Home Rule for Ireland OR to make sure ULSTER was not included in Home Rule



HOW DID UNIONISTS TRY TO STOP HOME RULE?

1) ULSTER COVENANT: this was a huge demonstration of Unionist determination to resist Home Rule. In September 1912, over 500,000 people signed a huge PETITION protesting against Home Rule. Some signed in their own blood to show their determination.

2) UVF- the Ulster Volunteer force was set up to show that they were not just prepared to sign petitions but to fight too. Over 100,000 people joined. They began training with wooden rifles.

3) GUN RUNNING. In 1913 things became even more serious when a huge shipment of arms was smuggled into Larne from Germany. The UVF were now armed! Nationalists were outraged as it seemed the police had turned a blind eye to this.

4) POLITICAL- the unionists also had a lot of political friends who were worried about things like the threat to the Empire. They pledged their support.



A) IVF AND THREAT OF CIVIL WAR

The delay of Home Rule also fuelled political change in nationalism.

In response to the UVF the nationalists started the IVF- Irish volunteer force, showing their same commitment to Home Rule. They also smuggled in weapons.. although the police and army did challenge some of these with some shot dead in shootings. It looked as if a bloody Civil war would tear Ireland apart.



B) WORLD WAR ONE

The outbreak of World War One changed everything and may have prevented civil war Ironically both unionists and nationalists supported Britain in the war. Nationalists believe the British were defending the small catholic nation of Belgium. They also felt that supporting the British would help them secure Home Rule after what they thought would be a short war. Unionists supported Britain to show their obvious loyalty but also in the belief that the UK government would NOT allow Home Rule for Ulster after what they thought would be a short victorious war.

C) ARMED REPUBLICANISM AND THE EASTER RISING

As the war dragged on and was not going so well for Britain, one group of Republicans decided that England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity. They wanted full independence and an Irish republic not just Home rule

On Easter Monday 1916 they were led by their leaders JAMES CONNOLLY and PADRAIG PEARSE to the GPO General Post Office in Dublin. They read out a proclamation of independence

They had caught the British by surprise. For a whole week the rebels held out against intense gun fire. Many Dubliners hated the rebels. They hated the damage caused to Dublin and to their businesses. They also felt betrayed as many of their relatives were fighting with the British in France. They also felt that the actions endangered Home rule.

Over 400 were killed in the rising, many of them civilians. While most Irish people disliked the actions of the rising, what the British did next turned history on its head! Over 3,000 people were arrested. 90 were condemned to death and 14 were executed including pearse and a gravely wounded Connolly, who had to be strapped to a chair.

